

BOUNCING BACK



Logan M. Jones | Collegian

Running back **Daniel Thomas** (8) and defensive end **Brandon Harold** (91) carry flags as they lead the team out of the tunnel before K-State's game against Central Florida. The Wildcats will be back in action tonight when they take on in-state rival Kansas in Lawrence.

Wildcats look to regroup in Sunflower Showdown

Ashley Dunkak
sports editor

Tonight's game at Memorial Stadium in Lawrence features two teams looking to start fresh and prove themselves all over again. K-State took a crushing 48-13 loss from Nebraska a week ago and Kansas has been in the shadow of a 55-7 thumping by Baylor for a week and a half. When the in-state rivals meet this evening, all bets are off.

K-State head coach Bill Snyder said while the players need to retain some of their anger after the loss to Nebraska, they also need to move on from the game and focus on conference rival Kansas.

Currently, 4-1 on the season, the Wildcats' trip to Lawrence will be their first true road game. They played away from Manhattan for the Iowa State game in Kansas City at Arrowhead Stadium, but tonight marks the first foray into enemy territory.

"It will definitely be a new atmosphere," said senior center Wade Weibert. "It will be the first time we will be outnumbered in fans, so the noise will be something we will have to adjust to among many other things. This game will be a factor in determining how this team will handle ourselves on the road."

The Jayhawks (2-3, 0-1 Big 12 Conference) haven't won or lost consecutive games this season. They have been very unpredictable. North Dakota upset them to begin the year, but they bounced back to

defeat then-No. 15 Georgia Tech the following week.

Despite the inconsistency shown by the Jayhawks so far, K-State senior offensive lineman Zach Kendall said he feels Kansas is a team capable of more than its record shows and because of this, the Wildcats have to prepare for the best version of the Jayhawks.

"I expect to see the best side,

the Jayhawks offensively is similar to what many other teams are doing and is a pretty complete package. What he refers to as option — aka zone-read — allows a team either to get rid of the ball or to have the quarterback run with it, which forces opponents to defend two different plays on the same snap, Snyder said. He also mentioned misdirections, gadget plays — different types of re-

watching film from the game against the Huskers was painful for everyone, the goal of the process was to make sure the same thing does not happen again.

"We all knew it was not going to be pretty, so it was not as much punishment as much as what can we learn from this," Slaughter said. "It is definitely hard to watch something like that because no one wants to see themselves fail."

For his part, Kansas head coach Turner Gill had a detailed list of what the team, which was defeated by K-State in 2009 at an electrified Bill Snyder Family Stadium, needs to do to edge out the Wildcats. He shared as much in his Monday press conference.

"We have to have an edge in two out of the three phases of the game," Gill said. "It really doesn't matter which phase it is in, offense, defense or special teams; we must win that. Something that is really important for us to get done is that we must create turnovers. We need to get three turnovers. Whether it's our defense causing turnovers or our special teams, we must get three or more turnovers in the game. We need to have 10 or less missed tackles. If that happens, that means we will play well defensively."

"Offensively we need to score 28-plus points. We need to have one or less turnovers and 80 knockdowns. We need to be knocking people down and putting them on their backs. We must play physical and we must play with confidence."

K-STATE VS. KANSAS

When: Tonight, 6:30 p.m.
Where: Memorial Stadium (Lawrence)
Television: Fox Sports Net
Radio: K-State Sports Network
Series: Kansas leads 68-34-5

probably one that hasn't even showed up yet," Kendall said. "They'll probably play better against us than they played against Georgia Tech. That's what we have to expect; we can't be preparing for a bad KU team. We'll prepare for the best KU team because that's probably the one that's going to show up."

Snyder said what he expects from

verses — and play action passes. In general, Snyder anticipates a variety of setups that allow a team to run the quarterback or the running back.

After giving up 303 yards on six snaps — all the plays resulted in touchdowns — against Nebraska, how the defense plays tonight speaks to its character, said sophomore linebacker Blake Slaughter. While

Kendall discusses K-State offense, hatred for Jayhawks

Ashley Dunkak
gameday editor

Zach Kendall is a senior on the K-State football team. The offensive lineman spoke about the line's responsibilities in regards to running back Daniel Thomas and quarterback Carson Coffman and his deep-seated hatred of KU.

Q: How big is this game for K-State?

A: It's big. Obviously we underperformed last week, and we got smashed, so we need to show that our team has some maturity and bounce back from that big loss last week. It's a rival this week, so it's big. Means a lot to us, means a lot to our fans, and I'm sure means a lot to KU as well, so we're really got to come out and perform this week.

Q: How hard is it to forget about last week?

A: In a sense you don't want it totally put behind you. You kind of want that sting to kind of stay. If you just forget about it, it could happen again. You don't want to get embarrassed again. You've got to let it go, you've got to let it go, because

you've got to start preparing for KU, and we have.

Q: What has been going wrong for the offensive line these past weeks?

A: A lot. We weren't very physical. Our pass protection picked up this week. We just didn't finish blocks last week. It's something that we kind of like to preach ourselves as a whole team is that we learn how to finish and we just didn't finish off blocks last week. We were falling off late; we'd get movement, and then we would fall off late and they'd make a tackle. We can't have that, especially if you're going to give Daniel Thomas the yards he deserves and the yards he's capable of. It's hard to do that when he's getting tackled three, four yards into the line of scrimmage.

Q: Was much of K-State's offensive futility due to Nebraska's athleticism?

A: I'm sure. But we feel like we're pretty athletic and we've got some good football players on our team as well. If we want to be the best, we've

got to be able to play against the best and beat them. That loss is on us.

Q: What has changed this week?

A: We've been a lot more focused this week. There's not so much joking around. The last couple weeks we might have been getting a little lackadaisical in our practice routines. We're a lot more focused this game.

Q: What does it mean that Thomas has been limited to under 80 yards rushing these past two games?

A: That's a direct reflection on us as an offensive line. It's frustrating to not be able to produce for him, so yeah, there is pressure on us. We've got the best back in the nation, and he's not putting up the yards he's capable of because of us. We feel bad. It's like a sick-to-your-stomach feeling that we're not doing what we should be doing for him because you know he's capable of so much more.

Q: How much do you dislike KU, having



Offensive lineman **Zach Kendall** celebrates with fans after K-State's 27-20 win against Iowa State at Arrowhead Stadium. Kendall, a native of Peculiar, Mo., has hated in-state rival Kansas since his childhood.

Matt Binter
Collegian

grown up in Missouri?

A: The KU-MU rivalry, in my experience, is a lot worse than the KU-K-State rivalry. It's pretty vicious. My mom went to MU, so I grew up trying to be an MU fan; I just couldn't quite do it. (Laughs) I've kind of grown up hating KU as well. It's just kind of in my family, in my blood, I guess.

Q: When did you first start disliking KU?

A: I went a MU-KU game when I was a little kid, and I remember just listening to my family — my mom's extended family — just scream and scream in the stands, and I was like, "I should probably hate KU too," so it just kind of built from there.

BY THE NUMBERS

Numbers to consider when K-State takes on Kansas tonight

15

-Ranking of Georgia Tech when defeated by KU

While the Jayhawks' 6-3 loss to North Dakota State to open their season served as fodder for many gloating Facebook statuses and much trash-talking by K-State fans — or just people who "strongly dislike" KU — they should not be overlooked. After that embarrassing loss, KU came right back and defeated a nationally ranked team. Now, KU is coming off an even more embarrassing loss: a 55-7 beatdown by Baylor. (By the way, it might be Baylor, but Baylor is 4-1, so don't discount it too quickly either.) To compound it, the team had a bye week after, so they've been stewing on that loss for a good week and a half. The Jayhawks also have a home field advantage. So despite the K-State football tradition versus the KU football tradition, this game, quite possibly, will be a good one.

107

-Games between KU and K-State

Yes, you could say there is a little bit of history between these teams. In fact, only 12 rivalries in the country can boast a longer history. Tonight's meeting is game 108. KU head coach Turner Gill is new to the rivalry, but I doubt it will take long for him to appreciate exactly what this game means to locals. Obviously it is one more "W" for whoever gets it, but there's something larger at stake. While playing for bragging rights seems a little juvenile, well, who isn't a little juvenile when it comes to arguing about whose football team is better?

14-4

-K-State's record against KU under Bill Snyder

When the man who led the change in K-State football has been in charge, the Wildcats have flourished against their perennial foe. Before Snyder's first season back in 2009, the Jayhawks had taken three straight games from the Wildcats. Those wearing purple hope that trend continues to reverse in this second coming of the wise and beloved coach.

47

-Length, in yards, of Josh Cherry's field goal to put the Wildcats on the board first against the Jayhawks last year

With what was his career-long field goal at that point, Cherry's leg helped K-State strike first in last year's contest with KU. Since 1990, the Wildcats have won 85 percent of the games in which it scored first. In the same time period, K-State has won 97 percent of the games in which it led at halftime. So the old adage comes into play again: start well and finish well. Highly motivated after last week's debacle and on the heels of one of the best practices they've had this season, according to coach Snyder, the Wildcats have a good opportunity to do just that.

89

-NCAA rank of KU's total offense


There have been complaints about K-State's offense, ranked 69th, but apparently KU's is worse. Still, it will be important not to underestimate the Jayhawks. Led by another redshirt freshman quarterback — danger — Jordan Webb has just over a 60-percent completion rate with six touchdowns this season. The Jayhawks average about 50 yards per game more through the air than on the ground, but K-State's pass defense, ranked eighth in the country, has been stellar to this point. Responsibility for the run game of the Jayhawks falls on freshman James Sims and sophomore D.J. Beshears. Hopefully the Wildcats can defend all these guys better than they did last Thursday. We will soon see.

8


-Consecutive Big 12 games lost by KU

The Jayhawks have not beat a conference team since they got a win over Iowa State on Oct. 10, 2009. While it's traditional to revel in a rival's futility, that fact only makes KU that much more dangerous.


-Compiled by Ashley Dunkak



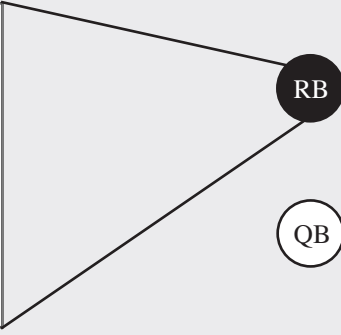
SCOUTING REPORT




JAMES SIMS
RUNNING BACK #29



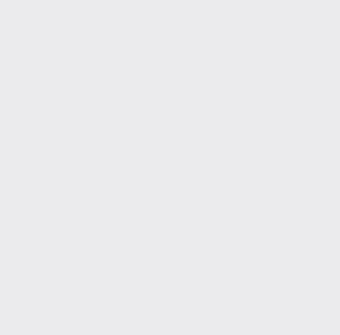
Sims, a true freshman, has wasted no time in making his presence felt in a Jayhawk uniform. During his first collegiate season, he's rushed for 329 carries and three touchdowns through five games. He's gone over 100 yards twice, including a 101-yard effort against Georgia Tech.





DAYMOND PATTERSON
WIDE RECEIVER #15





Patterson, a junior and converted cornerback, has played a significant role in more than one part of the Jayhawks' offense this season. He has established himself as KU's leading receiver. He has also figured into the running game, where he's averaged 10 yards per carry in 2010.













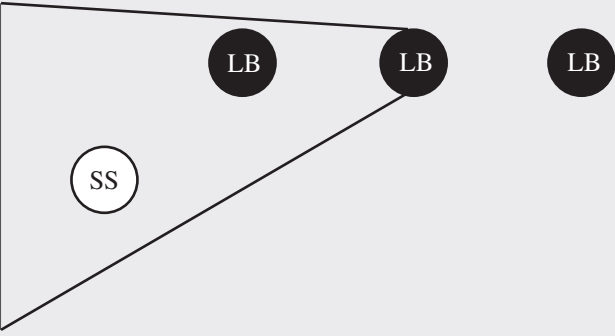



























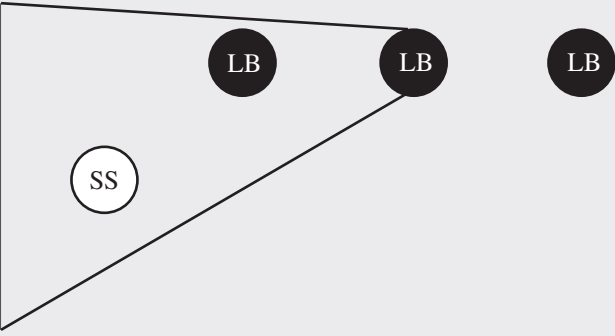









JUSTIN SPRINGER
LINEBACKER #45

Springer, a senior, anchors a linebacking corps that arguably represents the Jayhawks' strongest defensive unit this season. He currently ranks second on the team with 38 total tackles and leads the squad with five stops behind the line of scrimmage and a sack.










WEAKNESSES



STRENGTHS

Kansas Jayhawks (2-3 Overall, 0-1, Big 12 Conference)

STRENGTHS

Running back: True freshmen don't often get the opportunity to make an immediate impact in the Big 12, but Jayhawk running back James Sims has been given that rare chance. So far, Sims has taken advantage of the opportunity, as he's carried 67 times for 329 yards and three touchdowns. Those numbers may not seem too eye-popping, but keep in mind that he's only made two starts this season. He's gone over 100 yards on two occasions, including a 101-yard day in an upset against then-nationally ranked Georgia Tech. Junior Daymond Patterson is slated to start tonight's contest at wide receiver, but he's also played a role in the ground attack, as he's averaged 10 yards per carry this season. K-State's run defense has looked mediocre at best in recent weeks — particularly in its last game against Nebraska — so the Wildcats will need to keep a close watch on Sims and

company in order to avoid another big day by an opposing backfield.

Tight end: It's no big secret that the Jayhawks have struggled mightily on offense through their first five games of the season, but one consistent bright spot has been tight end Tim Biere. The junior became the regular starter last season and hasn't looked back since. He's only caught seven passes for 85 yards this season, but two of those receptions have come in the end zone. No Jayhawk player has really established himself as a "go-to guy" on offense, but the Wildcats will need to consider Biere a scoring threat any time Kansas enters the red zone in tonight's matchup.

Linebacker: While the first five games have been forgettable experiences for the Jayhawk defense, the linebacking corps has posted admirable numbers this season. Behind the senior

leadership of Justin Springer, the unit's three starters all currently rank in the team's top four in total tackles. Junior Steven Johnson actually leads the Jayhawks with 44 total stops, but Springer's numbers behind the line of scrimmage have been more impressive. Both players have recorded a sack, but Springer has tallied five stops for negative yardage. Johnson and senior Drew Dudley have also caused some disruption in opponents' backfields, as they each own 3.5 stops behind the line. This could prove to be an interesting matchup for K-State's ground game, as senior running back Daniel Thomas will look to get back on track after two straight subpar performances.

WEAKNESSES

Quarterback: Things have been shaky for the Jayhawk signal callers since the beginning of the season. Midway through their first contest — a 6-3 loss

to North Dakota State — head coach Turner Gill elected to replace starter Kale Pick with Jordan Webb. Webb, a redshirt-freshman, has started every game since, but his numbers haven't been anything to write home about. He's racked up 796 passing yards and six touchdowns, but 249 of those came in a win over New Mexico State, which currently owns a 1-4 record. Webb has shown he's also prone to making mistakes, as he's been picked off three times. This matchup appears to favor K-State's defense, which has been burned by dual-threat quarterbacks in each of its last three games.

Wide receiver: Last season, Kansas featured two of its most prolific receivers in school history in Desmond Briscoe and Kerry Meier. But, since losing both threats to the NFL Draft, the Jayhawks are still looking for a premier target. Junior Daymond Patterson currently leads

the team with 28 catches for 259 yards and two scores, but the Jayhawks don't have much to offer past that. That could mean a big day for K-State's pass defense, which enters the contest ranked No. 8 in the country.

Offensive line: A big part of the Jayhawks' offensive struggles has been lack of production by the team's offensive line in 2010. The starting front five includes two seniors and a junior, but experience hasn't necessarily translated into success in this particular case. So far this season, the Jayhawks have averaged just 141.8 rushing yards per contest and have scored just six times on the ground. Poor line play has affect Kansas' passing game as well, as opponents have sacked the Jayhawk quarterbacks 15 times.

Defensive line: Things up front haven't been much better on the defensive side of the ball, as Kansas has allowed opponents an average of 187.6 rushing


yards this season. Even worse for the Jayhawks: none of their opponents have featured a running back like Daniel Thomas. Thomas has looked average in his last two games, but he could be in for a huge night against a front four that hasn't been great against the run. Opposing quarterbacks haven't felt much pressure either, as the Jayhawks have recorded just three sacks through five games.

Secondary: Kansas' last game — a 55-7 loss at Baylor — was a major wake-up call for the Jayhawk defensive backs, who were burned for 434 passing yards. It's unlikely that K-State will throw the ball often — particularly after the loss of leading receiver Brodrick Smith — but quarterback Carson Coffman could still experience some success when called upon against a seemingly vulnerable Kansas secondary.

-Compiled by Justin Nutter

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MATCHING UP



Neither team looked particularly good in its last contest, as the Wildcats dropped a 48-13 game to Nebraska and the Jayhawks fell 55-7 at Baylor. But, the doesn't mean fans will necessarily be in for a low-scoring affair when the teams face off tonight.

K-State running back Daniel Thomas will look to return to form after back-to-back subpar performances against Central Florida and Nebraska. The Kansas run defense has looked vulnerable at times, so look for K-State to go to Thomas early and often.

Also worth noting: head coach Bill Snyder said on Monday that quarterback Carson Coffman will get the starting nod against the Jayhawks, but Coffman will be without one of his favorite targets. Junior wideout Brodrick Smith has been deactivated for the rest of the season after suffering a leg injury last week. The transfer from Minnesota ranks second on the team's roster with 14 catches for 191 yards, and he leads the team with three touchdowns.

Kansas struggled to get anything going offensively against the Bears, as the Jayhawks were limited to just 270 yards in the lopsided defeat. Quarterback Jordan Webb — a redshirt-freshman who made just his fourth collegiate start — threw for 171 yards and a touchdown, but was also intercepted twice. Four Kansas rushers combined for 99 yards and were held out of the end zone.

However, like K-State, the Jayhawks will look to bounce back against a defense that has looked mediocre in recent weeks. True freshman running back James Sims, who head coach Turner Gill has named as tonight's starter will try to recreate his performance against Georgia Tech, where he carried for 101 yards in an upset of the Yellow Jackets.

Long story short: both offenses have sputtered in 2010. But the Wildcats have the only proven threat in Thomas, so give them the offensive edge.

On the defensive side of the ball, it's hard to find much good after either team's last game, as they combined to give up 103 points to the Bears and Huskers.

Thanks in large part to Nebraska quarterback Taylor Martinez, K-State's "bend-but-don't-break" rushing defense had its worst showing in more than 20 years, as the Huskers racked up 451 yards and scored five times on the ground. That came one game after the Central Florida backfield torched the Wildcats for 252 yards and a score. Sims has proven he can post big numbers against opposing defenses, so K-State's front seven will really need to crack down to avoid another big day.

While the run defense has been forgettable, the pass defense has established itself as one of the nation's best. K-State enter's tonight's matchup ranked eighth nationally, as the secondary has allowed just 150.2 yards per game through the air. Webb has racked up 796 passing yards for the Jayhawks, but his last outing showed he's capable of making costly mistakes. That could work in K-State's favor.

Things couldn't have gone much worse for Kansas in its last game, as Baylor quarterback Robert Griffin III posted 444 yards of total offense and four touchdowns — three through the air and one on the ground. Any weakness Kansas had was exposed, as Baylor finished the game with 678 yards and, obviously, 55 points.

As bad as their last showing was, the Jayhawks still possess a linebacking corps capable of making plays in opposing teams' backfields. Led by senior Justin Springer, the starting linebackers have combined for 112 tackles, including 12 behind the line of scrimmage.

Just like in the offensive category, neither team has posted spectacular numbers on defense through the first five games. There is hardly a statistical advantage either way, but the K-State defense has found ways to win games, so give a very slim advantage to the Wildcats.

Experience should help K-State knock off KU tonight



Tyler Scott

what has been an unpredictable and inexperienced Kansas defense.

The Jayhawks have had their share of bad games, losing to North Dakota State and Southern Miss. Overall, they have been a team that has shown up at times, but has also failed to do anything in some games. With a new coach in Turner Gill, Kansas has not been able to find any true starting players who can play on a consistent basis. Kale Pick was the quarterback at the beginning of the season, but then failed to perform and lost the job to Jordan Webb. Nobody on the Jayhawk team puts up consistent numbers on a weekly basis.

Kansas' loss to Baylor two weeks ago was a perfect example as Robert Griffin had one of his best games of his career accumulating almost 450 total yards with four touchdowns. The Jayhawks also only scored a measly seven points. K-State should look at the Jayhawks' loss as an opportunity to fix any problems the team had against the Huskers.

Kansas surrenders an average of 377 yards per game, which is less than K-State who gives up 396 yards per game. This will be another game where both teams will rely heavily on the running game since K-State is a heavy run team, and the Jayhawks will try to exploit K-State's weak run defense.

In the end, I think it comes down to experience and recent success. K-State's loss to Nebraska was expected by most, but it should not affect them two weeks in a row. Kansas has many question marks on its team, and I don't think KU is good enough to stay in the game. I see K-State winning in what could be a landslide.

SPECIAL TEAMS

Last week against the Huskers, K-State placekicker Josh Cherry had one of the best nights of his career. The senior connected on his only two tries of the night — one from 46 yards and the other from 48. That makes him a perfect 5-for-5 since regaining the starting role in week two. Sophomore Anthony Cantele continued to man kickoff duties, which he has handled since the season opener against UCLA.

Sophomore punter Ryan Doerr was called on five times against Nebraska. His average of 36.4 yards may not appear too staggering, but he recorded a long of 47 yards and pinned the Huskers inside their own 20-yard line three times.

In the return game, senior running back William Powell continued to post impressive stats, as he carded six returns for an average of 31 yards. He nearly broke one for a touchdown in the second half, as he took it 52 yards before being stopped in Nebraska territory.

Cherry may have been solid in his last action, but the same thing can't be said for his Jayhawk counterpart. Senior Jacob Branstetter missed his only attempt against the Bears, which dropped him to 2-of-5 on the season. He's proven to be shaky from all ranges, as he also missed on an extra point attempt earlier in the season.

Jayhawk punter Alonso Rojas has put together a solid season, as the senior has averaged 43.8 yards on 21 punts. Like Doerr, he recorded five in his last game, including a long of 57 yards.

Sophomore running back D.J. Beshears has proven to be a return threat for the Jayhawks, as he owns a 33.4-yard average and a touchdown in 2010.

This could really go either way as both teams own some legitimate special teams weapons, but Cherry's perfect numbers — as well as Branstetter's forgettable ones — give the edge to K-State.

PREDICTION

K-STATE 21 KANSAS 17

Regardless of who comes out on top, don't expect the final deficit to be larger than a single digit. As has been the case in several of the Wildcats' games this season, statistics don't indicate that this will be a landslide by any means. Neither team has been great on either side of the ball — particularly as of late — but K-State has found ways to win.

There are some things working in the Jayhawks' favor. The game will be played in Lawrence, it is on national television and the teams is likely upset after its last showing. But, K-State is out for blood as well after getting embarrassed at home.

But all the "X-Factors" aside, the Wildcats seem to have the tools to keep the Governor's Cup in Manhattan for another season. It's likely that Kansas will stack the box early against K-State's rushing attack, but Coffman should be able to hit his receivers against a Jayhawk secondary that was ripped to shreds in its last game. Sims will probably post solid numbers against the Wildcats' front seven, but Kansas doesn't have many additional options.

Bottom line: look for Thomas to get the ball early and often. Coffman shouldn't have much trouble completing some passes, which will open up running lanes and likely get the Wildcats' running game back on track. Defensively, K-State should be able to zone in on Sims, which should take away the Jayhawks' most dangerous offensive threat.

Barring a big day from an unlikely source, the Wildcats should be able to ride Thomas to a low-scoring win and a 5-1 record.

-Compiled by Justin Nutter

BIG 12 NORTH STANDINGS		
TEAM	RECORD	NEXT GAME
Missouri	5-0 (1-0)	at Texas A&M
Nebraska	5-0 (1-0)	vs. Texas
K-State	4-1 (1-1)	at Kansas
Iowa State	3-3 (1-1)	at Oklahoma
Colorado	3-2 (0-1)	vs. Baylor
Kansas	2-3 (0-1)	vs. K-State

BIG 12 SOUTH STANDINGS		
TEAM	RECORD	NEXT GAME
Oklahoma	5-0 (1-0)	vs. Iowa State
Oklahoma State	5-0 (1-0)	at Texas Tech
Baylor	4-2 (1-1)	at Colorado
Texas	3-2 (1-1)	at Nebraska
Texas Tech	3-2 (1-2)	vs. Oklahoma State
Texas A&M	3-2 (0-1)	vs. Missouri



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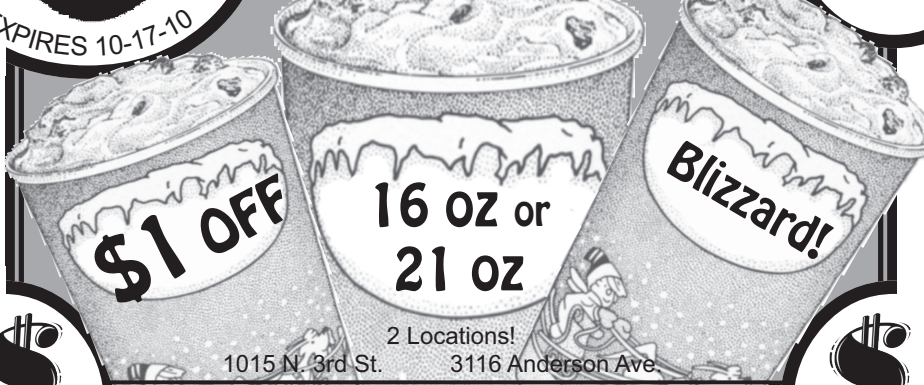


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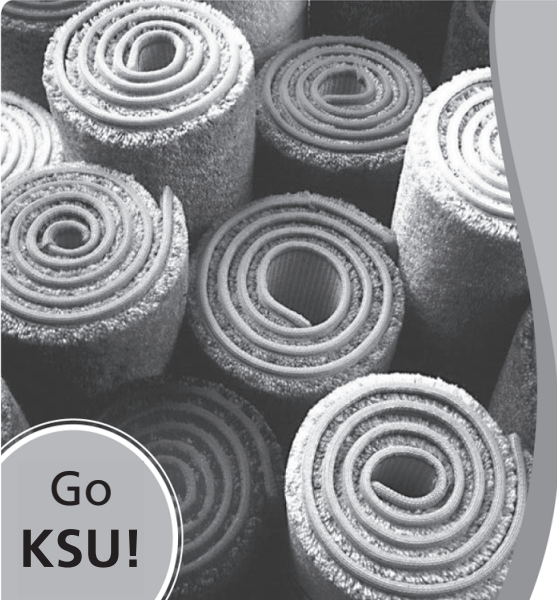
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Coaches, players saddened by loss of Smith after surgery on leg



Receiver **Brodrick Smith** is carted off the field after injuring his leg last week against Nebraska. The injury required season-ending surgery. Head coach Bill Snyder called Smith a “strong-willed young guy,” and said he looks forward to the sophomore’s return.

Justin Nutter
gameday editor

Unfortunately, one season wasn’t a long enough wait. Last season, wide receiver Brodrick Smith transferred to K-State from Minnesota to be closer to his son. Due to NCAA transfer rules, he was required to sit out the entire season. But, after paying his dues, Smith finally got his chance in 2010 and wasted no time in making his presence felt. Through the Wildcats’ first four games, he emerged as one of quarterback Carson Coffman’s favorite targets, as he hauled in 14 catches for 191 yards and three touchdowns. But, in the fourth quarter of the team’s 48-13 loss to Nebraska, things took a turn for the worse when Smith went down with a leg injury. He was taken off the field and his leg was immediately

immobilized. After the game, it was decided that surgery was required. Just like that, the sophomore’s season was done. “It’s that kind of sport. It’s one in which injuries occur,” said head coach Bill Snyder. “All of us feel badly for Brodrick. The players do, the coaches do, I’m sure our fans do. He had surgery and he’ll be out for the season. But he’s a strong-willed young guy.” Snyder added the team will submit a waiver for a medical hardship, but he said it’s unlikely that one will be granted. Per NCAA rules, an injured player who has participated in at least 20 percent of a team’s scheduled games doesn’t qualify for an additional year of eligibility. Even after going without a catch against the Huskers, Smith still accounts for nearly a quarter of the Wildcats’ receiving yards and half of their receiving touch-

downs. But, according to the guy who has gotten him the ball this season, statistics aren’t the only thing K-State loses with Smith now permanently on the sideline. “(We lose) blocking as well,” Coffman said. “I felt like he was one of the best blockers on our team. But, I also feel like the guys we’ve got coming in and stepping up in his place are just as capable of doing what he’s done.” Coffman said one of those guys, sophomore Chris Harper, has shown an additional spark in practice since his teammate and longtime friend went down. Like Smith, Harper transferred to K-State and sat out last season. “We were already kind of down because we were losing pretty big, but that’s just a different type of emotion when Brodrick went down,” Harper said. “When we were losing, it was more anger. When he went

down, it was more sadness.” Harper, who played his first collegiate season at Oregon in 2008, caught his first touchdown pass of the season on a two-yard strike in the fourth quarter of last week’s game. It was his fifth catch of the season and increased his total yards to 50 for the year. Emotions aside, Harper said the team must move on and continue preparation for tonight’s game against in-state rival Kansas. He also mentioned that the receiving corps has responded well to Smith’s injury and he expects several players to make an impact in their teammate’s absence. “We’ve got to pick it up for him,” he said. “There are going to be some guys that probably haven’t played too much that are going to play. We guys who have played a lot, we’ve got to pick it up for him.”

2010 RECEIVING STATISTICS			
NAME	REC.	YARDS	TD
Aubrey Quarles	15	221	2
Brodrick Smith	14	191	3
Daniel Thomas	12	52	0
Tramaine Thompson	10	154	0
Chris Harper	5	50	1
Braden Wilson	4	49	0
Adrian Hilburn	3	21	0
Andre McDonald	2	23	0
Travis Tannahill	2	21	0



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